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DECORATIVE TEXTILE FABRICS

COMING STYLES IN CARPETINGS.

By MRS. S. A. BROCK PUTNAM.

LT cannot be said that, in the carpets made for the coming spring, we have got entirely away from the reproduction of Oriental ideas, or from the later revival of the fancies of the Renaissance. The regal Savonnerie, the Aubusson and the moquette of French manufacture, the Scotch Axminster, and our own best Wiltons are still dependent for design, to a great extent, upon the scrolls and

tangles and other charming conceits of Renaissance fancy.

There is no doubt that floriations are the dominating fancy in designs for carpetings rather than Oriental tracerries. But these floriations are not after the ancient idea, when great parti-colored bouquets gave character to a Wilton or a velvet, as they did to a printed tapestry carpet. Parti-colored floriated designs still appear in an occasional piece of American royal Wilton, or American Axminster carpeting; but the flowers are not of the exaggerated size, or in the very vivid tones of colors seen in designs of the past, but appear in sprays, clusters and festoons, of a single kind of nature's coloring, slightly toned down in tint. Floriation understood, one of the most popular designs scatters over a carpet of plain ground color a spray of a single rose or other blossom, branched with a few leaves, or a spray of several blossoms with the leaves, the border of the carpet showing festoons of the flower which distinguishes the design, or a straight garland of flowers of magnified size coursing the middle of the width.

Carpets in grounds of delicate neutral tints, which have found favor for the last several years, especially if of the Savonnerie, Aubusson and Axminster manufactures, will hold their own for fine drawing-rooms and other rooms for ceremonious use, but the trend of favor for carpets, taken collectively, is in the direction of grounds in medium and deep tones of strong colors. In the Bigelow Wiltons, handled very largely by Messrs. W. & J. Sloane, and in the Wiltons of both the Lowell and the Hartford Manufacturing Companies, green is a notable ground color, appearing in several tones of olive, moss and sage, with jade, and an occasional piece in the dark Lincoln tint. The blues in carpets have been brought out in the indigo, marine, navy and electric tints, and in the greyish stone blue. The reds appear in the strong Pompeian, the dark Venetian and Indian tints, with the Turkey red, and *vieux rouge*. Terra cotta will be continued a while longer as a ground color in carpets, but there are evidences of its declining popularity, mahogany color and other browns superseding it in general favor. Carpets in grounds of the fashionable soft dark olive and moss greens, indigo and marine blues, and Venetian or Indian reds, scattered over with sprays of pink or yellow roses, with a border in festoons of roses, or a dense garland of great roses, are striking and novel in effect, but they are handsome and attractive.

Varying the carpets of flowered design, carpets of plain color finished with a border of floriated design are in vogue, and still later are borders striped in three tones of self color; but the carpets of plain color readily showing footprints and

other impressions, and being more liable to defacement than carpets of figured grounds, clouded and watered grounds have been evolved, a floriated border being the finish.

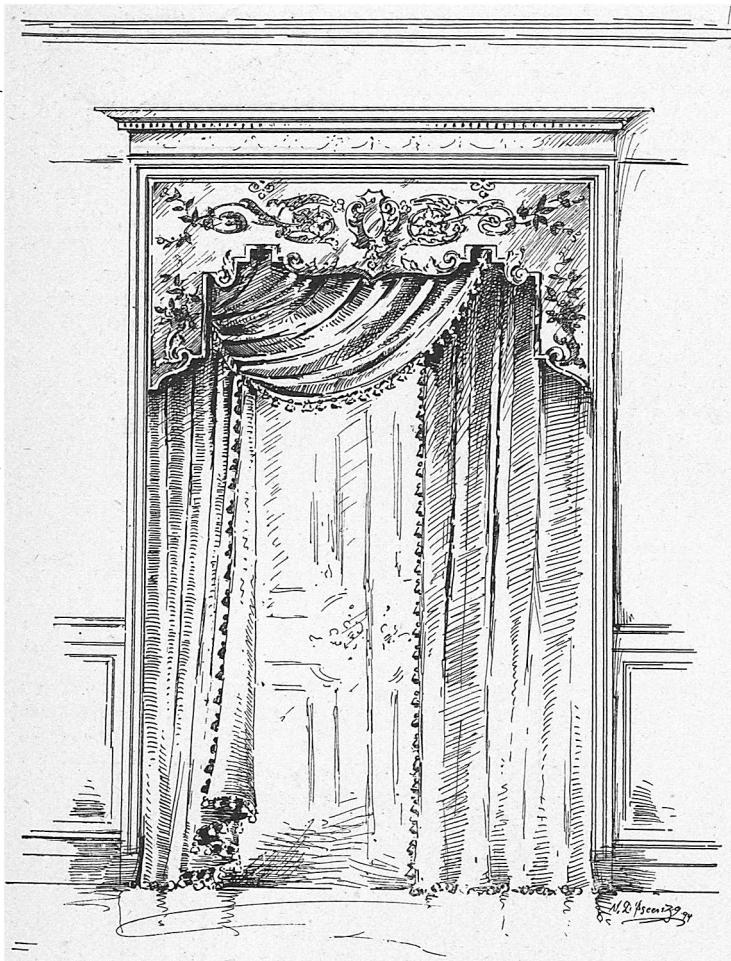
A very rich royal Wilton shown in a collection to be brought out in the spring, is of Venetian red, scattered over with sprays of roses in clear, delicate pink, festoons of roses giving character to the border. A Wilton in marine blue, of plain grounding, has a dense garland of hollyhocks of greatly magnified size and several colors in the border. A very remarkable carpet in the green of a lightly-shaded rippling stream, of watered grounding, has the border in a design of dense garland of the white water-lily laid on a growth of the cat-tail. Very attractive carpets of the Wilton weave are of



DRAPERY FOR DOORWAY BY NICOLA D'ASCENZO.

plain groundings in jade, green, electric blue, and a medium pale tone of *vieux rouge*, with floriated borders—paler tones being more agreeable than the deeper tones of color in the plain carpets. And very available, useful and desirable carpets in the new strong colors have designs in tangles, leaves, small blossoms, and arabesque tracerries brought out in a distinctly paler tone of the ground color, or two or three different tones of the self color.

Much favor attaches to the carpets for bedrooms and nurseries in the blue-and-white of old Delft, the Owari and the Imari of Japanese porcelains and blue Dresden china; and for dainty bedrooms there could be no carpets more charming than in the fashionable delicate blue, rose and other pale colors, in designs of scattered daisies, pansies, forget-me-nots and other blossoms—the growing plant appearing in the border.



DOORWAY DRAPERY. BY NICOLA D'ASCENZO.

The velvet carpets of Alexander Smith & Sons, also handled by Messrs. W. & J. Sloane, which have come to be so extensively used for libraries, dining-rooms and halls in private residences, and for hotels, steamboat and railway-car furnishing—for all purposes, indeed, in which richness of effect, with durability and inexpensiveness, are considered in floor-coverings—will be brought out for the spring in very attractive designs. Following the trend of the stronger colors that are destined to obtain in carpetings generally, they are less fanciful in the designs in which they appear than the richer varieties of pile weaves, showing in some cases kaleidoscopic effects in the colors introduced, and in others, ideas captured from Oriental carpetings. It is said of these carpets that during the last several years they have made more rapid strides toward approval, because of their excellence of quality and their adaptability for the uses indicated, than any carpets in our market.

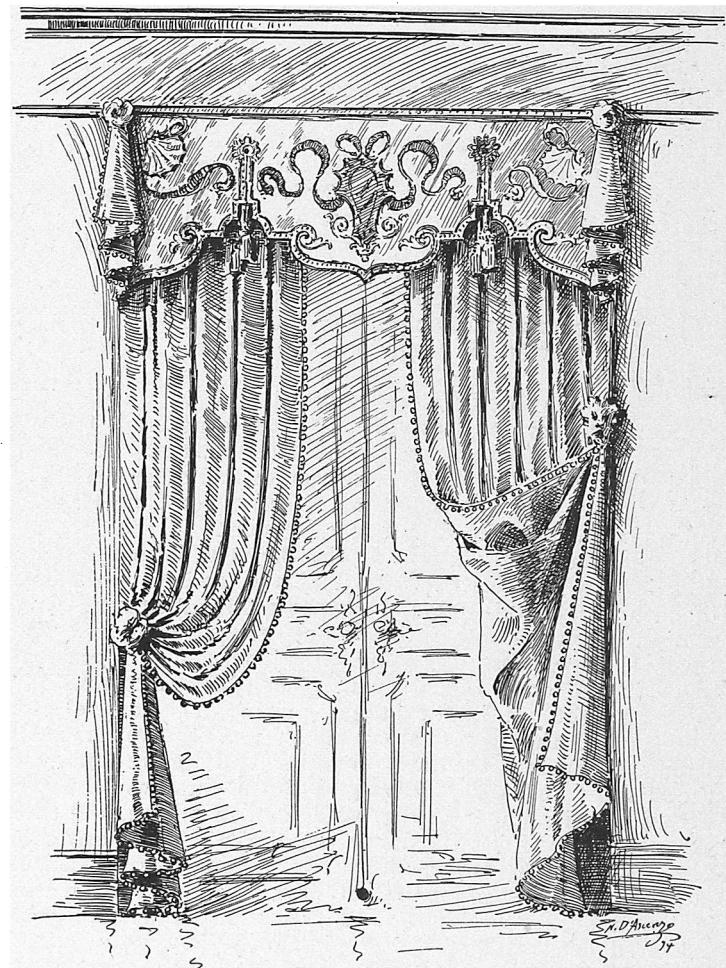
The moquettes follow in colors and general effect the higher grades of pile carpets, but the moquettes, having come to be loosely woven, and being less serviceable than other varieties of carpetings, have lost the popularity that once attached to them among our domestic manufactures. However, there are no richer or more highly esteemed carpets brought to our market than the French moquettes, and none in which there are more beautiful colors introduced, or in which there is greater expenditure of design. They are regarded in excellence of quality and in richness of effect as scarcely inferior to the Scotch Axminsters. In coloring they partake of the character of the Savonnerie carpets, and rank among the most desirable carpets of foreign manufacture for best uses.

The characteristics in color which attach to the new pile carpets distinguish also the new productions in the body Brussels weave, although the Brussels carpets are rarely in plain grounding, the arabesque idea, or some effect of mixed tones of color usually underlying the objective design, and the East Indian palms and other Oriental features still occasionally appearing in them. Strong colors and designs in small figures give character to the new hall carpetings, the designs in many cases being evolved in different tones of the grounding color.

In the more expensive and higher grades of carpeting, especially those of the new floriated designs, the border is twenty-seven inches, or three-fourths of a yard in width; while for the general line of carpetings the border is five-eighths of a yard, or twenty-two and a half inches in width.

There are no marked changes of style to note in either the new American Smyrna rugs or in the tapestry carpets, while the art squares of the ingrain carpeting gather to themselves all that is attractive in this homely but useful manufacture. Those to be brought out in the spring show new and pleasing designs in the usual colors.

For the Savonnerie carpets, according to quality and design, the price in our market ranges at from \$85 to \$100 per square yard. Scotch Axminster squares of special design sell at from \$15 upward per square yard, the carpeting by the running yard retailing at from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per yard. Aubusson carpets of special design sell at about \$25 per square yard. Royal Wiltons retail at \$2.25 and \$2.50 per yard, according to quality; American Axminsters sell at from \$1.35 to \$1.75 per yard; Smiths' velvet carpets sell at \$1.35 per yard; body Brussels carpets sell at \$1.25 and \$1.35 per yard; French moquettes retail at \$4.00 and American moquettes at \$1 per yard; tapestry carpets retail at from sixty-five to seventy-five cents per yard, and ingrain carpets



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range at from thirty-five to sixty-five cents per yard according to quality.

For information concerning the coming styles in carpetings, thanks are due, also, the Messrs. Sanford Sons and Messrs. E. S. Higgins & Co.